



CSD *News Release*

April 23, 2002

IN PREPARATION FOR HURRICANE SEASON COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND IFAS TO HOLD PRUNING WORKSHOP

Miami-Dade County's Cooperative Extension Service and the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) will hold a workshop on Thursday, May 30 to teach residents and professional landscapers how to prepare trees for the hurricane season.

The Cooperative Extension Service is a division of the Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department

The five-hour workshop will be held at the Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension's main office, the John D. Campbell Agricultural Center, 18710 S.W. 288 Street in Homestead, beginning at 8:15 a.m.

The sessions will cover pruning hardwood trees, palms and fruit trees, as well as the proper techniques for 'Structural Pruning,' maintenance and thinning. There will also be a session on 'Hazard Tree Assessment.'

The instructors will be Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension and University of Florida experts, Carlos Balerdi, George Fitzpatrick and Charles Yurgalevitch, and Mike Orfanedes of the Broward County Extension Education Division. Way Hoyt, an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) will also speak on pruning mature trees

There will be a demonstration of proper tree pruning techniques by ISA-certified arborists, Rudy Alemañy and Jason Gerrish.

Additional information about the workshop can be obtained by calling (305) 248-3311. The cost is \$12.50 in advance and includes lunch and refreshments.

The 2002 Hurricane Season begins Saturday, June 1 and ends Saturday, November 30.

Please note attached document.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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The Miami Dade Consumer Services Department is an agency of Miami-Dade County government that protects consumers through complaint mediation, business regulation, and consumer education. The Department operates the Consumer Hotline (305) 375-3677, a central telephone number for consumer complaints and information.

TREE TRUNK AND BRANCH STRUCTURE

- ❑ ***A trunk with a crook in it is just as strong as a straight one.*** Trunks with slight doglegs, crooks or bend are not weaker than those which are straight. This is a normal development on many trees. Healthy trees will grow out of this condition and the trunk will appear straighter as it becomes larger in diameter.
- ❑ ***Horizontal oriented branches are better attached to trees than upright branches.*** Upright branches are poorly attached to trunks. Horizontally oriented branches are usually well secured to trunks. A branch growing in an upright manner parallel to the trunk becomes a second trunk. The tree is said to have a double leader. Double leaders are dangerous because they can easily split from the tree during a storm.
- ❑ ***Topping a tree creates a dangerous tree.*** Topping is cutting branches or stems to random lengths. Trees should never be topped. Topping creates hazardous trees because the wood inside the cut branch begins to decay. The sprouts which grow in response to topping are not well secured to the topped branch and they can easily split from the tree as they grow larger. To avoid this, always prune a branch back to a living branch crotch. This technique is called drop crotching.
- ❑ ***A tree with multiple leaders (trunks) will become hazardous to people and property as the tree grows larger.*** Never allow trees to grow with multiple upright leaders. These trees may look handsome when young but will become hazardous as they grow older. Always prune so that leaders or branches are spaced 18-36 apart along the main trunk and be sure they form an angle of more than 40° with the trunk.

PRUNING

- ❑ ***Trees do not heal, but they are capable of isolating injured tissue from healthy wood.*** Trees are not like people because they do not heal. They lose the storage capacity and function of injured tissue forever because cells cannot be replaced. In contrast, animals heal by replacing injured tissues. Plants must seal off the injured tissue from the healthy portion of the plant in order to stay alive. The swollen callus tissue developing around a trunk wound or pruning scar is closing over the injured tissue, not healing.
- ❑ ***Never cut a branch flush with the trunk. That is, never make a flush cut.*** It has been standard practice to prune a branch flush with the trunk. Extensive research has shown that this practice injures the trunk and is extremely detrimental to tree health and shortens the life of trees. Flush cuts make a tree more susceptible to frost cracks, heat injury, root problems, cankers and sprouting. To avoid this, always cut to the outside of the branch collar which is located at the base of every branch. This collar is easily seen as a swelling where the branch meets the trunk. When pruning in this manner it may appear as though

a stub is left on the trunk; however, properly done, this technique removes all of the branch and does not injure the trunk.

- ❑ ***Rapid, thick callus growth around a pruned branch does not indicate the branch was pruned properly.*** The callus forming around a pruning scar often forms rapidly, regardless of the pruning technique. This tissue should form a ring or donut-shape if the branch was removed properly. If the callus is elongated or oval-shaped, the branch was pruned too close to the trunk. Despite rapid callus formation around a pruning cut or injury, extensive wood rot can develop inside the tree.
- ❑ ***Wound dressings and pruning paints do not prevent wood rot.*** Wound dressings do not prevent wood decay behind a pruning cut. They provide no benefit to the tree. Some research indicates that wound dressings promote decay in certain situations. If pruning paints or wound dressings are to be used for cosmetic purposes, apply only a very thin coat. Only proper pruning practices prevent wood rot.